

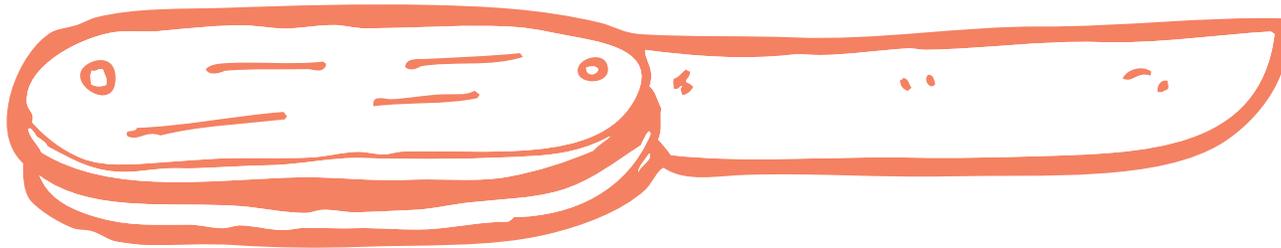
FLOWER PROCESSING

Christi
Lopez



WHY SHOULD WE CONDITION FLOWERS?

At the end of our long days, we want to wind up with blooms, foliage and plants with maximum longevity. There are alternatives in preparation to discover the best practices for various materials. Read on to learn more!



WOODY STEMS

Roses, Lilac, Dogwood, Cherry Blossom, Mock Orange,
WATER temp: lukewarm
Care & Handling: A good diagonal cut & drink an hour before designing.

HEARTY SEMI- WOODY

Marigolds, Celosia, Statice, Stock
WATER temp: lukewarm
Care & Handling: A sharp diagonal cut, remove foliage near water line, let drink minimum one hour before designing.

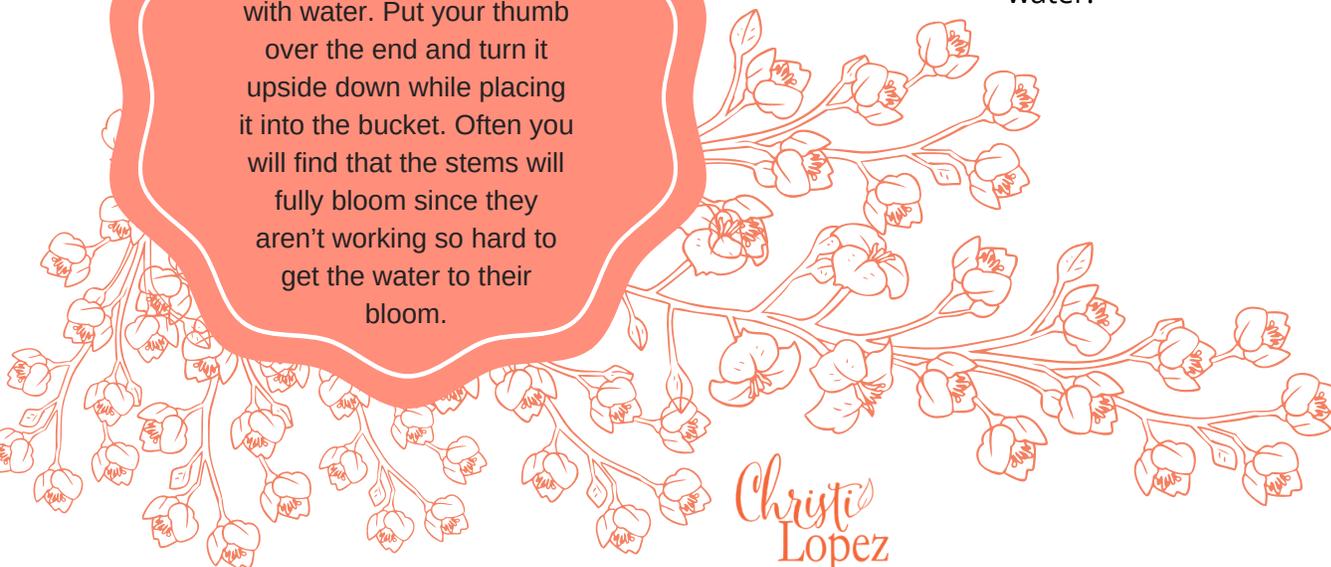


Pro Tip!

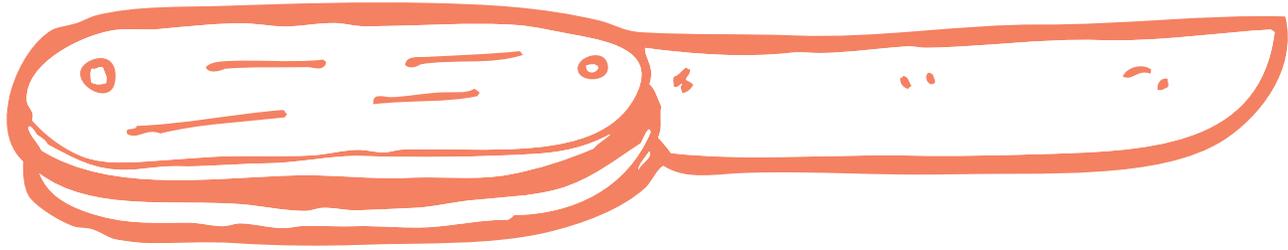
When possible, turn them upside down, fill the stem with water. Put your thumb over the end and turn it upside down while placing it into the bucket. Often you will find that the stems will fully bloom since they aren't working so hard to get the water to their bloom.

HOLLOW STEMS

Delphinium, Larkspur, Bells of Ireland, Dahlias, Amaryllis, Ranunculus
WATER temp: lukewarm
Care & Handling: These blooms LOVE to have their stems full of water!

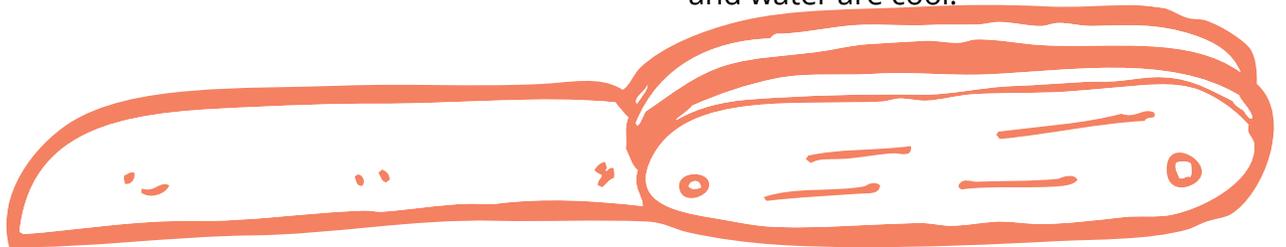


Christi
Lopez



BULB/ SOFT STEMS

Tulips, Hyacinth, Iris, Calla lilies,
Hellebores
WATER temp: cold
Care & Handling: These flowers do
best in cold water. Most of these
flowers bloom best when the air
and water are cool.



MILKY STEMS

Euphorbia, Asclepias, Poinsettia,
Snow on the Mountain
WATER temp: lukewarm to HOT
Care & Handling: The best way to
work with these flowers is once
cut, apply a flame from a candle
or lighter to the cut end for about
30 seconds to seal (in other
words, cauterize it!)

**Pro
Tip!**

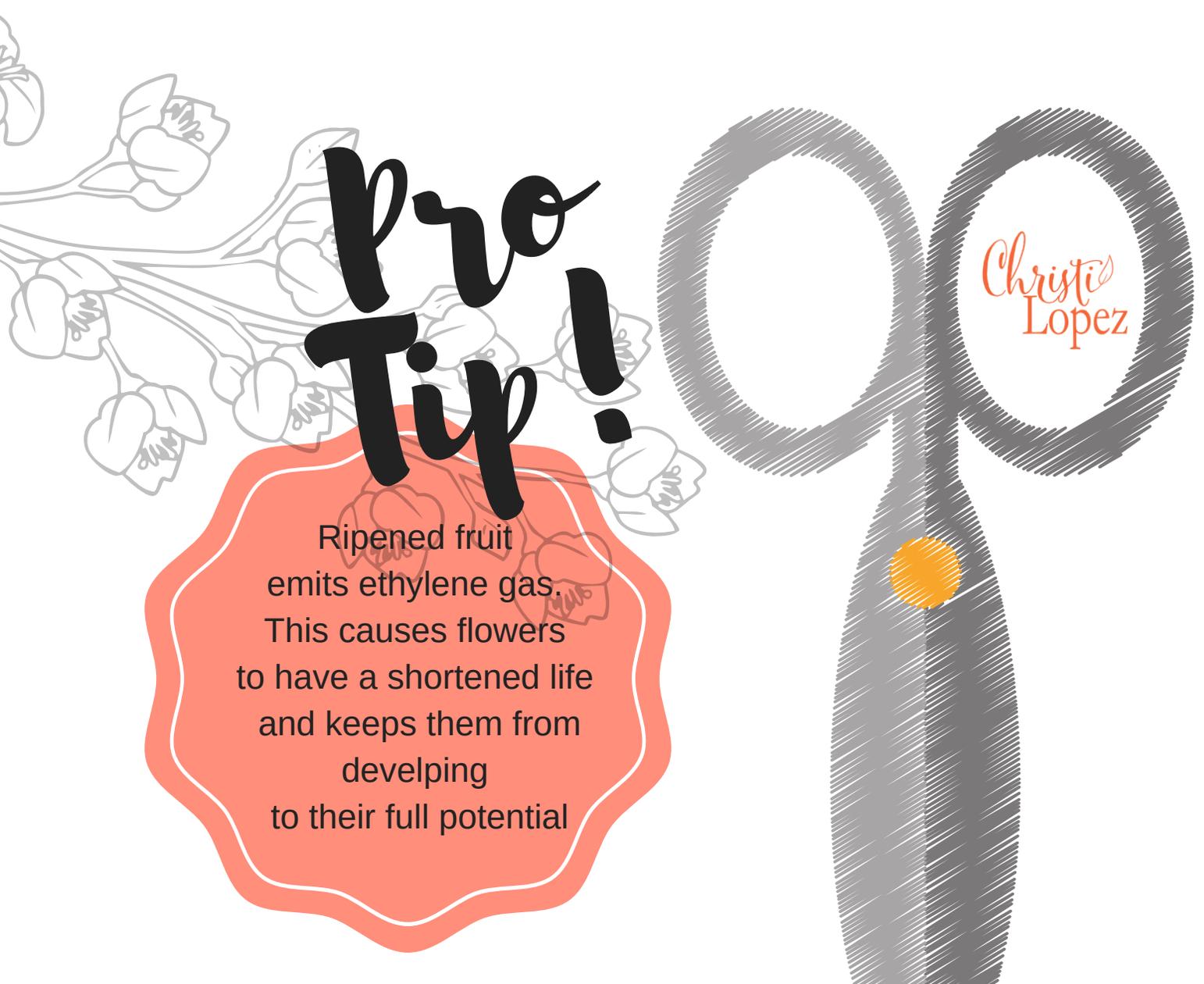
Milky Stems secrete a milky latex sap that oozes. Once into the water, it clogs the vascular system of other flowers! This prevents them from “taking up” water up their stem.

*Christi
Lopez*



Cut Flowers Do NOT like:

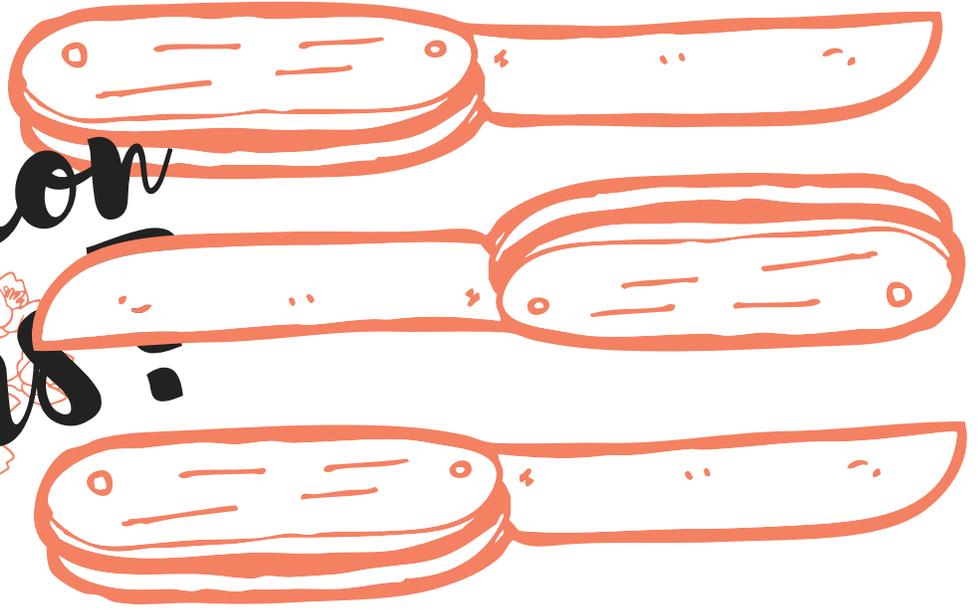
- DIRECT SUNLIGHT
- DRAFTS
- HEAT
- DIRTY WATER
- FOLIAGE UNDER THE WATER LINE
- SINGLE TOPPING PIZZAS



**Pro
Tip!**

Ripened fruit emits ethylene gas. This causes flowers to have a shortened life and keeps them from developing to their full potential

Why Condition Flowers?

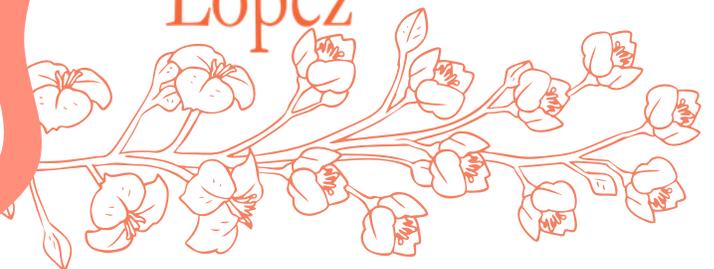


Preparing cut material before design ensures optimum performance.

Flowers & foliage that last for the maximum amount of time is worth the effort

cutting your materials with a sharp knife at an angle is better than using pruners which can flatten & damage the stems as well as the ability to drink

Christi Lopez



Tulip Tales



Tulips continue to **GROW**
after being cut!

They will always arrange themselves,
turning towards the light.

Wrap them in newspaper when
conditioning and keep stems upright



Christi
Lopez

Pro Tips

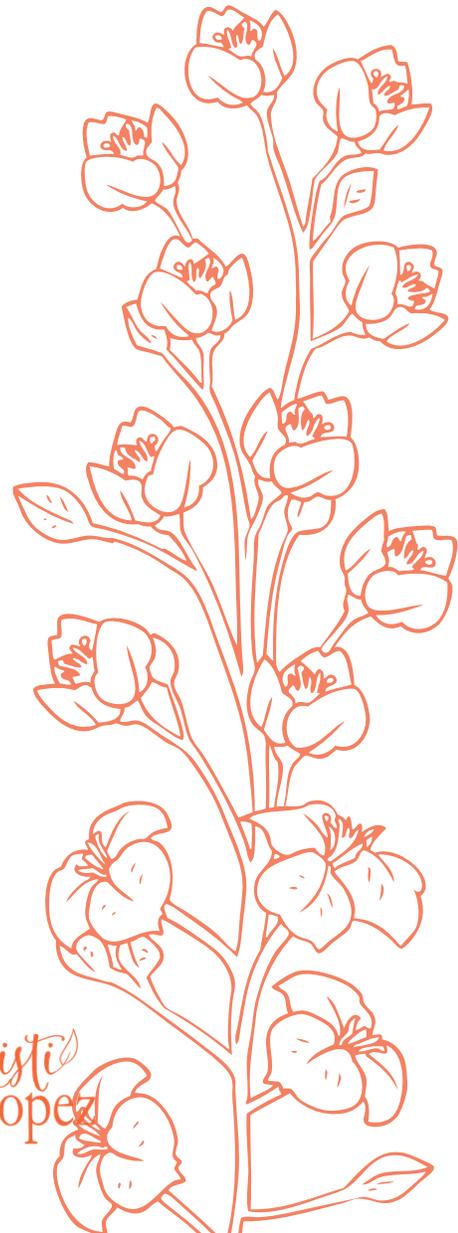
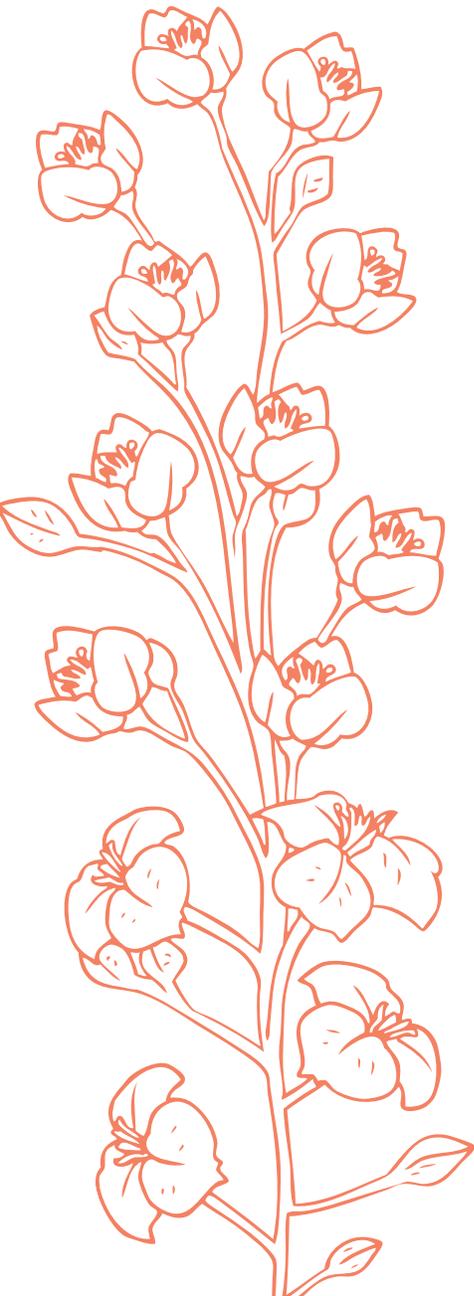
- 
- Purchase quality materials. Need sources? Just ask Christi!
 - Pay attention to the quality for color, strength and damage!
 - Make fresh cuts with a sharp knife not pruners!
 - Keep blooms dry to avoid damage to petals or disease i.e. Botrytis.
 - Use Chrysal or Floalife for optimum results and performance!

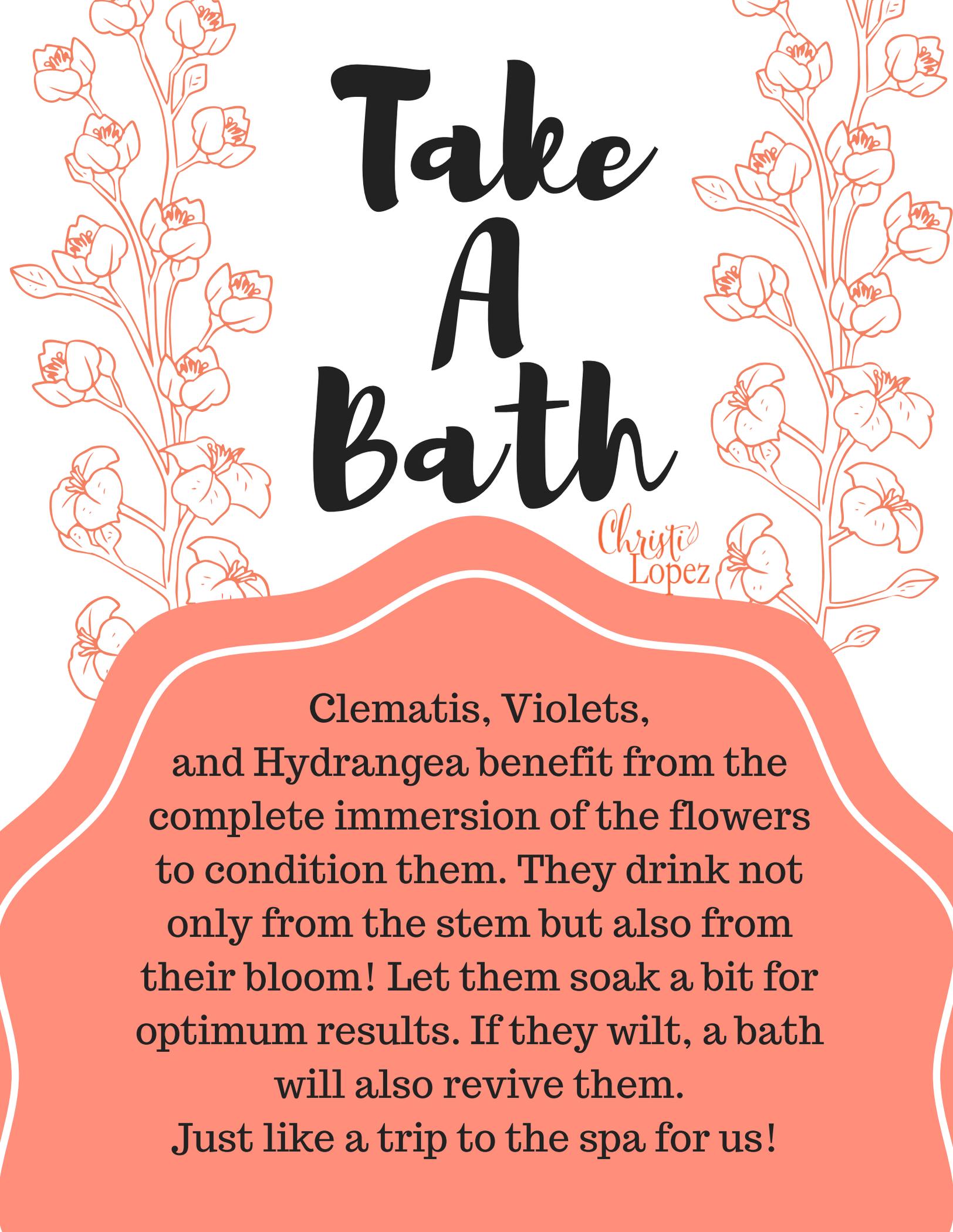
Christi
Lopez

Wilted!

Don't panic! It happens~
Re-cut, and place in very hot or near-boiling water. This destroys the airlock and helps to take up water again. The heads of the flowers should be wrapped in tissue paper or newspaper to protect them from the steam. When the flowers have revived, (usually after $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ hour) recut the stem ends, as the boiling water will have damaged them, and continue to condition overnight before re-arranging.

Christi
Lopez





Take A Bath

Christi
Lopez

Clematis, Violets,
and Hydrangea benefit from the
complete immersion of the flowers
to condition them. They drink not
only from the stem but also from
their bloom! Let them soak a bit for
optimum results. If they wilt, a bath
will also revive them.

Just like a trip to the spa for us!



Bucket List

Christi
Lopez

As a general rule, buckets should be filled to about $\frac{1}{4}$ full with water, to which cut flower food has been added at the appropriate rate. This will prolong the life of the flowers and helps to prevent bacterial growth.

Using room temperature water allows the water to enter the stem more rapidly, so conditioning is quicker. However, use cool water for bulb flowers, unless you want them to open quickly.

All buckets used for conditioning should be meticulously clean and should be cleaned out regularly, to prevent the buildup of bacteria

After removing the lower leaves, all stem ends should have the bottom 1 – 2 cm removed at a sharp angle, thus exposing more of the central area of the stem, known as the xylem tissue, which is responsible for the uptake of water.

Flowers and foliage should hydrate for at least one hour before designing, however, preferably overnight for them to get a full drink!